What is a wetland?

These beautiful natural resources are areas of land full of life that require water-loving plants and soil, and (you guessed it!) water. Wetlands can include marshes, swamps, and bogs.

Why are wetlands so important?

Wetlands provide homes for wildlife, prevent flooding, purify our water, provide sacred land to our tribal nations and MORE!

What can YOU do to help?

Our community can help save our wetlands by recycling, picking up trash, planting native trees, avoiding pesticide usage and even join programs dedicated to wetland conservation and restoration!

Kickapoo Environmental Office

Jessica Raley

Wetland Program Coordinator

(785) 486 2601 EXT 102

Wetlands

The underrepresented heroes of our ecosystem

Wetland Wildlife

Biodiversity

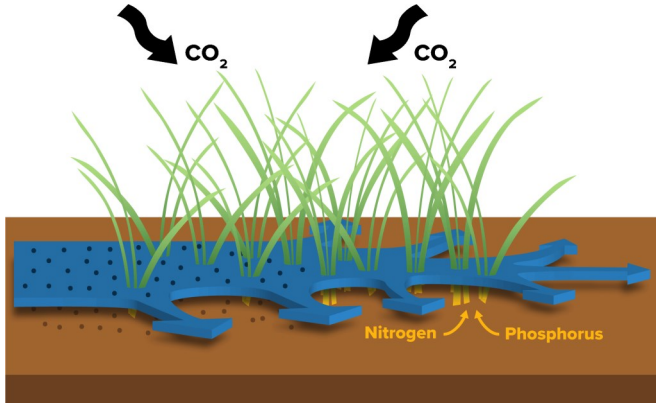
Wetlands provide homes and food for animals that help keep the ecosystem in balance. When wetlands are unhealthy or destructed, it hinders thousands of organisms, which has a cascading effect on the entire ecosystem.

Clean Water

Do you ever wonder where we get our clean drinking water from? Sure, we have million dollar water treatment plants, but what if I told you there are these "magical" resources that do this for FREE? Wetlands act as a filter for run-off, pesticides toxins, and excess nutrients. These chemicals and nutrients are taken up by plants or microorganisms.

Flooding

Not only do wetlands provide homes for animals and purify our water, they can also act as a giant sponge for extra water that could potentially lead to devastating and expensive flooding! The wetlands plants absorb the extra water and slow down the water movement.



Sacred Land

The Native American tribe, Teton Sioux, has a phrase "Mní wičhóni," meaning "water is life". Water has held cultural significance to many, including Native Americans. These natural resources have provided grounds to tribes for religious ceremonies. Some tribes believe in water-beings that protect their home.

Haskell-Baker Wetlands is a nature preserve expanding across 927 acres in Lawrence, Kansas. These wetlands have been used for sacred and spiritual lands for various tribes. In 1992, Haskell students built a medicine wheel on the grounds to incorporate ceremonies.